

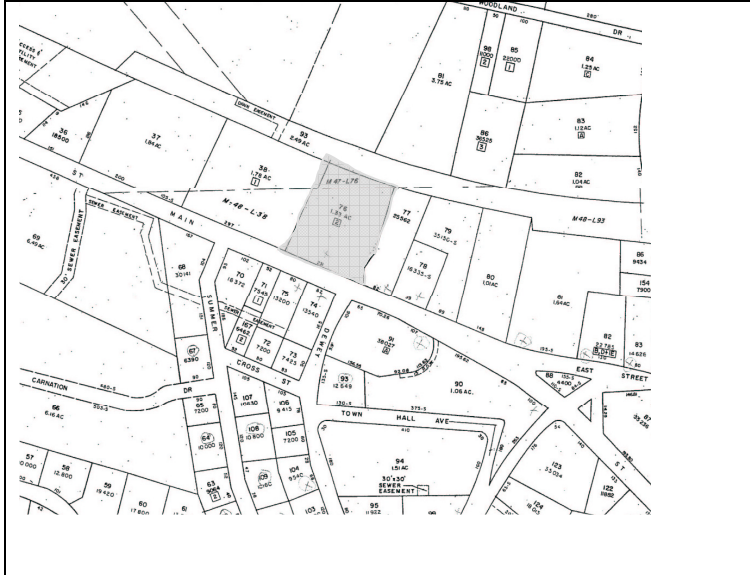
FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Julie Ann Larry

Organization: ttl-architects

Date (month / year): March 2010

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

47 76			
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Town: Tewksbury

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)
Tewksbury Center

Address: 940 Main Street

Historic Name: Foster School

Uses: Present: Foster Place Apartments
Original: Foster High School

Date of Construction: 1894

Source: Local History

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: J Williams Beal & Son (1924-1925 ell)

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone & Brick

Wall/Trim: Vertical Wood Siding & Wood Shingles

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

rear ell (1924-5)

Converted to apartment and rear addition (c2000)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no | X | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 1.33 Acres

Setting: Located on a busy travel corridor north of the village center. The area is predominately civic with some residential and commercial uses on the west side of Main Street.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY

940 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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___ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The former school at 940 Main Street is a two-and-a-half story Queen Anne style building that has been converted to a residential use. The irregular shaped building is five by five bays and the building has a rear addition and a modern three-story addition perpendicular to the main building form. The character defining Queen Anne details include: the steep hip roof and clip hip dormers, the projecting entry portico, the irregular ground plan, and the variety of material textures: the rusticated stone and brick foundation, the vertical siding, and wood shingles. The roof top cupola is a modern replacement. The hip roof forms are sheathed in asphalt shingles.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

In Tewksbury Center in the late 19th century, high school students attended the District No.2 School that was constructed in 1887 at the corner of Main and James Streets. In 1893 the Town appropriated \$8000 to build a new high school and a year later the third Tewksbury High School was dedicated as the Foster School in honor of Enoch Foster, a local businessman and farmer. The third floor hall and assembly room was dedicated to JC Pickering. Both Pickering and Foster furnished financial aid for the construction of the school building. The Foster School served as the Town's high school until 1900 when it was used as an elementary school and the high school students were taught in Lowell.

After the Foster School opened, the District No.2 School was used as the Town's Public Library. In 1906 the school bell from the library building was moved to the Foster School. The bell, cast in 1887, first hung in the Belfry of the District No.2 schoolhouse since its construction in 1887. The bell is named in honor of Benjamin Spaulding, the founder of the Tewksbury Village Improvement Society. Due to damage in the belfry of the Foster School, the Spaulding bell was removed and stored on the school's attic floor in the 1930s. During a major roof replacement project in the 1950s the bell was lowered and stored on the third floor in Pickering Hall. The Spaulding Bell is now located in front of the Central Fire Station. It was re-dedicated to Tewksbury's deceased firefighters in 1986.

In 1924-5 plans were made to expand the Foster School building with a rear ell addition. In 1927 The town purchased additional land from Mary Lynch for enlargement of the Foster School. In 1933 using funds from the Federal Government's National Recovery Act a new high school was constructed at 135 Pleasant Street. In 1935 the Tewksbury Central School was opened as the Town's fourth high school.

In 1951 the Tewksbury Police Station was built on the Foster School Lot, next to the schoolhouse. A new police station was built at 918 Main Street in 1996.

In the late 1990s the school was purchased by John D Sullivan and converted to 24 apartments.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

U.S. Census Records. 1790-1930.

Directories. 1896-97, 1898-99, 1900-01, 1911-12, 1913-14, 1915-16, 1919, 1927, 1930-31, 1932-33, 1937-38, 1940-41, 1942-1943, 1949 [Ancestry], 1953, 1955, 1961, and 1967.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY 940 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)	Form No.
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- Map of the Town of Tewksbury 1852. Henry F Walling. Boston, MA.
 - 1865 Map of Tewkesbury with inset.
 - Atlas of Middlesex County 1875. FW Beers.
 - Altas of Middlesex County 1889. Geo H Walker & Co.
 - List of Residents by Streets, Ages 17 years and over, In the Town of Tewksbury Mass. As prepared by the Board of Registrars (various years 1965-)
 - Valuations of the Real and Personal Estate of the Town of Tewksbury.
 - North Middlesex County Registry of Deeds.
 - _____. *Ye Towne Book*. Town of Tewksbury. 1934.
 - Patton, Harold J. *Ask Now of the Days that are Past*. Higginson Book Co. 1964.